Committee to Restore City Hall plans lots of noise on Dec. 17

Its planners are hoping for a large crowd when the official launching of the fund-raising campaign to restore Carbondale's city hall gets underway on Thursday, Dec. 17.

On that day, at 7 p.m. Tom Brennan, a member of the Committee to Restore Carbondale City Hall, will go to the tower and manually ring the bell for five minutes.

It is then hoped that at 7:05 p.m., church bells will then be rung for five additional minutes. Working on this aspect of the evening are Mrs. Jean Colville and Miss Nan Loftus.

Or, as S. Robert Powell, who is spearheading the campaign, says, "There will be lots of noise."

Preceeding the bell ringing, Powell told the *Carbondale Mirror*, will be a great "hoopla in the street below."

There will be a brief ceremony that night and, it is hoped, the Carbondale Area High School band will be on hand to perform a few numbers.

All this noise and hoopla has but one purpose: to declare the objectives and existence of the committee. Following the "hoopla" the committee will hold a meeting.

Why?

Why was the Committee to Restore Carbondale City Hall formed?

Perhaps, that is best answered by the brochure printed and circulated by the committee's members:

"The clock in the tower of Carbondale City Hall does not work. Portions of the brickwork on the exterior of the building have to be repointed and/or replaced.

"Portions of the roof have to be re-shingled. Portions of the mouldings have to be repaired and/or replaced. In order to make those repairs to the exterior of the building, the Committee to Restore Carbondale City Hall was formed in November, 1981."

But why should the building be restored?

Again, that is a question answered in the committee's literature.

"Carbondale City Hall, erected in 1869 and renovated and enlarged in 1892-1894, has been the seat of government of the City of Carbondale for 112 years.

"Such a building was not erected for the use of one generation or five generations or 10 generations. Such a building was built for all generations, for all time.

"It is, therefore, the responsibility of every generation of Carbondaleans to maintain and transmit to the following generation a healthy building. It is now our turn to look after City Hall and to make certain that the building that we bequeath to our children is as vigorous as the building we inherited from our parents. If it is not, it is we who will bear the burden of shame.

"If it is, it is we who will be credited with having had faith not only in ourselves and our city but also in our children and the city that we bequeath to them.

"The responsibility of the present generation to look after City Hall is particularly great for two reasons: (1) many repairs to the exterior of the building have to be made now, (2) the economy of Northeastern Pennsylvania is not now as healthy as it was when City Hall was built.

Invaluable service

"In restoring Carbondale City Hall to its former beauty, we will be performing an invaluable service not only to the building itself, but also to the City of Carbondale. To restore a building such as our City Hall is to proclaim to one and all that we, the present generation, not only have respect for Carbondale and its past, but also have faith in ourselves and in the future of Carbondale.

"That respect and that faith are very recognizable in both cities and and in people.

"When that respect and that faith are recognizable in a city and in the inhabitants of that city, industrial prospects are attracted to, and ultimately locate in, that city.

"Not only does an industrial prospect have a bright uture when it locates in such a city, the city itself has a bright futre. In the long run, therefore, everyone benefits when people and cities have respect for the past and faith in themselves and in the future.

"That we, as citizens of Carbondale, have respect for Carbondale and its past and faith in ourselves and in the future of Carbondale must be made known to all visitors to the City of Carbondale and to all industrial prospects who are thinking of alocating in the Carbondale area.

"One of the ways that we can proclaim to one and all that we have decided to invest in Carbondale — past, present, and future — (and that they,therefore, should invest in Carbondale) is to restore Carbondale City Hall to its former beauty."

Three ways to help

The committee notes that there are three ways a person can help to restore Carbondale City Hall:

Make a contribution to the Restore Carbondale City Hall Fund. Checks should be made payable to the Committee to Restore Carbondale City Hall, 41 N. Church St., Carbondale, Pa., 18407.

Donate time and services — needed are masons, electricians, carpenters, painters, roofers, jacks-of-all-trades.

Attend the meeting scheduled for Thursday, Dec. 17.

CARBONDALE CITY HALL